

Good afternoon Chairman Sinrud, members of the Committee. My name is Jamie Paul, and I am the Director of Health Promotion & Family Services at the Butte-Silver Bow Health Department. We also have Family Planning Clinics located in Deer Lodge and Powell Counties.

I am here to educate on the benefit of House Bill 638 which would provide the additional funding my clinic needs to continue to provide services in the counties we serve.

Butte is home to one of the 15 publicly funded family planning clinics located throughout Montana offering comprehensive family planning, counseling and educational services to women & men in need. We rely on Title X funding as well as patient fees and donations to provide services to Butte and the surrounding counties.

In Fiscal Year 2006, our Butte Clinic served 2,072 men and women. Of those the majority of clients served are low income.

- 85% were at or below 150% of the poverty level, compared to 70% statewide.

- 94% were at 250% of the poverty level and qualify for reduced fees

- 75% of the women seen at the Butte Family Planning qualify for free services and contraceptive supplies, compared to just 56% statewide

With the dramatic increase in cost of contraceptives we have been forced to reduce our formulary. For example; we were paying \$1.44 for a case of Ortho-Cyclen, compared to the \$460.80 that we are now paying for a case of the same.

This has had a huge impact on our budget. We have already overextended our supply budget by roughly 25%, and have had to request a budget resolution to get us through the end of this fiscal year. We have also reduced our formulary and have raised the cost of supplies for our clients. But with 75% of the women we see qualifying for free services; we do not anticipate we will be able recoup a significant amount of monies.

With the large amount of low-income folks in our community, Family Planning services are absolutely critical. Please support HB 638.